

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 OES-07 AID-05 EB-08 /108 W

-----114745 221037Z /13

P R 212226Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8212

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PGOV AR CI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTS SIGN BEAGLE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT: PINOCHET
SPEECH REPORTEDLY UPSETS GOA

REF: SANTIAGO 1127 (NOTAL)

1. FEBRUARY 20 PRESIDENTS PINOCHET AND VIDELA SIGNED A
THREE-PHASE AGREEMENT OUTLINING NEGOTIATION STEPS IN THE
BEAGLE DISPUTE. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE AGREEMENT CALLS
FOR A COMBINED CHILEAN/ARGENTINE COMMISSION WHICH WILL HAVE
A 45-DAY PERIOD TO PROPOSE MEASURES CREATING "NECESSARY
CONDITIONS OF HARMONY AND EQUITY" DESIGNED TO LAST THROUGH-
OUT THE BEAGLE NEGOTIATIONS. THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT
BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE ISSUED ORDERS TO THE RESPECTIVE
AUTHORITIES IN THE SOUTH TO REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN
HOSTILE ACTIONS AND DECLARES THAT NEITHER WILL ISSUE
REGULATIONS OR CARRY OUT ACTS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS
WHICH WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE BOUNDARY CLAIMS.
ONCE BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPROVED THE PROPOSED MEASURES
OF PHASE 1, ANOTHER COMBINED COMMISSION WILL HAVE SIX
MONTHS TO TREAT THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS MENTIONED IN PARA
2 OF REFTEL IN WHAT WILL BE PHASE TWO OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
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THE THIRD PHASE WILL HAVE BOTH GOVERNMENTS DRAWING UP
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BASED ON FINDINGS OF THE TWO
COMMISSIONS AND IS NOT ASSIGNED ANY TIME FRAME. THE FIRST
COMMISSION REPORTEDLY MEETS IN SANTIAGO STARTING MARCH 1.

2. AFTER THE SIGNING, PINOCHET DELIVERED A PREPARED
SPEECH IN WHICH HE ASSERTED THAT CHILE DOES NOT HAVE ANY

EXPANSIONIST MOTIVES NOR DOES IT PRETEND TO 'UNJUSTLY CLAIM' LANDS, MARITIME AREAS OR CONTINENTAL SHELVES WHICH ARE NOT HERS. HE WARNED HOWEVER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL "FAITHFULLY COMPLY" WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND THAT NATIONAL HERITAGE WHICH BY LAW BELONGS TO CHILE. PINOCHET ALSO LABELLED CHILE'S CONTINUING DISPOSITION TO SUBMIT THE BEAGLE ISSUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AS THE BEST DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT OF "PEACE AND JUSTICE WHICH INSPIRES MY GOVERNMENT." VIDELA, SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY OFFERED A CONCILIATORY AND COMPLEMENTARY REPLY IN WHICH HE CALLED THE AGREEMENT "A DOCUMENT WHICH IS ONLY ONE STEP TOWARD A BETTER STYLE OF SHARED GREATNESS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES."

3. COMMENT: THERE APPARENTLY IS SOME EFFORT IN THE BUENOS AIRES PRESS, AS REPORTED HERE, TO DEPICT THE PINOCHET SPEECH AS UNSUITABLE FOR THE START OF A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE HAVE HEARD ECHOES OF THAT FEELING HERE. WHILE THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM THAT CHILE'S AND ARGENTINA'S DIFFERENCES STEMMING FROM THE BEAGLE DECISION CAN BE RESOLVED BILATERALLY (HENCE THE REPEATED GOC REFERENCE TO RENEWED INTERNATIONAL COURT PROCEEDINGS) THE AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 20 IS A HOPEFUL STEP. IF NOTHING ELSE, THE EXTENDED NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED WILL DISSIPATE THE CRISIS ATMOSPHERE FUELED BY EXAGGERATED AND BELLICOSE PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, BEAGLE CHANNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA01166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0917
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780232/aaaabazq.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18d4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 1127
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3534830
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTS SIGN BEAGLE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT: PINOCHET SPEECH REPORTEDLY UPSETS GOA
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, AR, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18d4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014